



COLORADO SPRINGS,
COLORADO

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OCTOBER 1994



Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc.
P. O. Box 16521
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80935

FIRST CLASS MAIL



Ø BEAT



P.P.R.A.A Officers and Directors

President—	Steve Westby	W8TVHR	1540 Keith Dr.	80918	570-1070
Vice-President—	Al Vrooman	N8CMW	1341 Diana Ln.	80909	473-1660
Secretary—	Ken Phillips	N8NKP	4850 Santiago Way	80917	574-6368
Treasurer—	Thomas McDaniel	N8NTX	4255 Shining Way	80916	570-1466
Board Member—	Ora Marie Rose	N8QJX	5214 Colter Lane	80916	591-5766
Board Member—	Malcolm Banton	KE9S	15366 Deby Drive	80921	488-2071
Board Member—	Liz Deutsch	N8TUK	4305 Ridgeline Dr.	80918	593-8362
Board Member—	Steve Schaarschmidt	K8CI	6165 Tuckerman Ln.	80918	598-3664
Past President—	Luci Stansberry	N8OUD	2630 E. Uintah	80918	636-1290
Ø-Beat Editor—	Kathie Martin	N8YTQ	3148 Maverick Dr.	80918	594-9339
Ø-Beat Editor—	Mike Martin	N8OCZ	3148 Maverick Dr.	80918	594-9339

ZERO BEAT is published monthly in the interest of the members of the Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association, Inc., PO Box 16521, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80905. For membership and subscription information see last page of this publication. The Pikes Peak Radio Amateur Association meets monthly on the second Wednesday of each month at the Disabled American Veterans, Chapter 26, 6880 Palmer Park Blvd. at 7PM.

EDITORS: Kathie and Mike Martin, N8YTQ and N8OCZ, 3148 Maverick Drive, Colorado Springs, Colorado 80918 (719)594-9339. Deadline for submission of articles or ads is the 20th of each month. Submissions may be sent to the Editor or to the club PO box. Permission to reprint articles is granted provided credit is given to both the author and this publication.

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Committee Chairpersons, etc.

Publicity	Al Craig	594-9288
Membership	Les Borst	634-3995
Education	Al Bailey	597-8514
VE Testing	Rick Brown	531-9423
Interference	Bill Petty	591-2116
RACES	Doug Moloney	unlisted
ARES	Mike Stansberry	636-1290
Skywarn	Steve Westby	570-1070
Public Service	Mike Stansberry	636-1290
CCARC	Oak Stockton	570-7782
Club Trailer	Harry Russell	
Ø-Beat	Kathie Martin & Mike Martin	594-9339
Club Historian	Al Craig	594-9288
Falcon Wanderers	Bob Nyman	574-5161
Programs	Steve Schaarschmidt	598-3554
Swapfest	Harvey Hunter	597-8964

Reminder - October Meeting

The next meeting of the PPRAA will be held on Wednesday, October 12th at the Disabled American Veterans Hall located at 6880 Palmer Park Blvd. The meeting starts at 7:00 PM. We will hold the Elections for Officers and Board Members.

VE Testing

Rick Brown - KD8SU

VE Testing is sponsored by the PPRAA on the 2nd Saturday of February, April, June, August, October, and December. Testing takes place at 9:00 AM at:

Denver Technical College (DTC)
225 South Union
Colorado Springs

While we prefer pre registration, walk-ins are accepted on a space available basis. Anyone wishing to take an examination should bring the following items.

1. \$5.75 (preferably a check or money order made out to ARRL/VEC) for any exam other than element 1A or 2.
2. Picture identification.
3. A copy of your current amateur license as well as the signed original. A copy of any examination credit you have as well as the original. We keep the copies.
4. Pen, pencils, and a calculator if you need one.

To pre register, or if you have any questions, please call me at 531-9423. Please do not call DTC, they only provide us the rooms for testing and they do not have any information concerning the test session.

Along with an increase in the number of hams comes a proportional increase in the number of packeteers. So it's not unusual that a common question asked among hams these days is "What kind of TNC do you have?" But to ask another ham what TNC he or she uses won't necessarily help you decide which one is right for you. That depends on what you want to do with packet.

This article is not going to select the best TNC for you, but it might help you with your decision. Don't rely on just this article, though. Talk to others involved in packet radio. Everyone is more than willing to help you out.

What can I do with packet? What do I want to do with it? You should answer these questions before you get started. By looking at what you can (and can't) do and how well some of the TNCs perform these tasks, you can concentrate on making the right choice.

A terminal node controller (TNC) (1) converts data from your computer into an analog signal that modulates your radio and (2) converts audio from your radio into digital signals to be used by your computer. Well then, you should be able to do anything over packet that you can do on your computer. Right? Yes and no. Yes, but only if the software is available to do it. It's too bad the most often used software used on packet is the modem-like software to communicate between the PC and the TNC. You know, just like the software used to communicate via your telephone modem.

Most folks use packet for one or more of the following: traffic handling, DXing, swapping equipment, ragchewing, emergency communications, electronic mail, BBSing, remote PC operation, Internet access and a few other things.

Features: So now you know only a little bit more than you did before, but maybe enough to whet your appetite. Keep on talking with other hams for more info. So what features should you look for if you want to get started in packet?

If you want to operate a bare-bones station, look for a bare-bones TNC. You don't even need to buy a TNC at all! (Read on about the Baycom product.) To say bare-bones I mean you just want to sit down and type, accessing other stations.

The next step up is to have a personal BBS. Many TNCs come with this feature built-in. Others connect to your station when you're not around and leave you messages. This also means leaving your TNC and radio on all the time. Get the most memory you can afford for the mail feature.

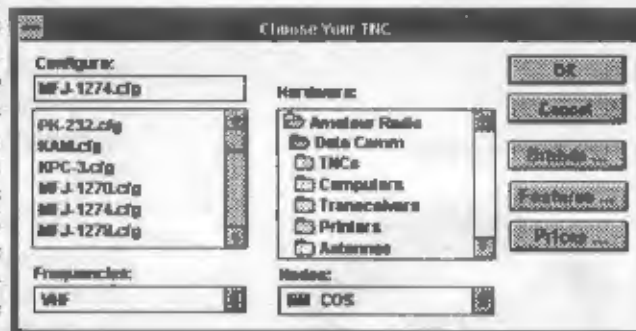
If you're going to leave your radio on, you should look for TNCs with a node capability. (Your TNC will digipeat, but it's not as good as a node. More in a future article.) With the TNC configured as a node, other hams can use your station as a relay if they can't connect directly to the destination station.

This is great if you know where the nodes are located. (There is a major node operated by the PPFMA called COS on 145.01 MHz. It is a wide-area node that you can use to connect to stations far away.)

To do more and operate a full-service BBS or a packet cluster, you need a TNC AND a computer with substantial disk drive space. Your TNC may need to have the KISS mode.

Packet Applications: By far the most common use of packet is for e-mail. However there is a growing interest in providing applications for packet. That is, you connect to another packet station and immediately that station calls up a program and you can run an application via packet. You do this every time you log into a bulletin board system (BBS). Local stations like W0RA, W0LKD, or W0YNS are running packet applications on their computer. You connect and immediately are running their BBS program.

Lesser-known applications include DX Cluster and ARES/Data. These are variations of the BBS. In the DX Cluster, you connect to another station and then are tied in to a sophisticated networked message center and conference tool. It is commonly used by DX hunters to coordinate those rare and not-so-rare DX contacts. Try it some time. Connect to KCOUH on 144.91. Type "HELP" for



help.

Another version of the Cluster supports emergency communications. The local RACES and ARES groups operate clusters to handle emergency traffic and conferences. The ARES/Data program is a smaller application designed to operate as a on-line database which can be used anytime an on-line database is needed.

Brands and Prices: I won't say much here because prices change fast and there's not much room left. So here's what's out there. MFJ makes several models: the 1270, 1274, 1278. Kantronics makes the KAM, KPC-2, KPC-3, KPC-4. AEA makes the PK-232. There are certainly others out there. Prices run from about \$120 to over \$300.

I want to say something about Baycom. It's not a true TNC but a modem. It provides an interface between your PC and your radio. Nothing else in between. It converts speaker audio to digital signals (and digital to audio out to the mike). You probably figured out the rest is done in software. The Baycom software basically simulates the TNC. There are some differences, though. I could probably spend a whole page on Baycom. Maybe I will...

So much to say, so little space. Until next time...SK

Rob Roller, WB7WHT, is the ARES District 14 Area Emergency Coordinator for Packet Radio.

Ø-Beat Traffic Net

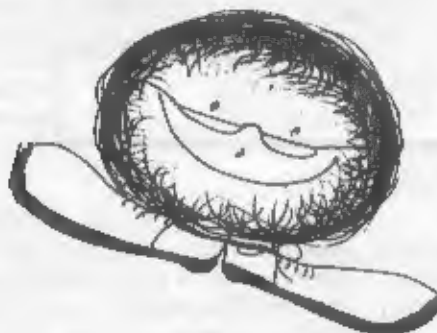
Dear PPRAA Human People,

Franklin and I just returned from a trip to the southwestern part of Colorado. We accompanied Ron and Liz the human people in whose house we live. The trip was great fun--and of course it had wonderful academic benefits because it helped the students appreciate their Literature and Mumlopeties studies.

The scenery was just beautiful. We did not take any pictures because it is not possible to capture the beauty with even the best photograph.

Franklin and I heard that you are having elections for Board Members and Officers. We don't really understand what that is all about but it sounds very serious to us. We hope everything goes well. We also hope you can have some fun with these elections even though they are evidently very serious business.

Well, Ta Ta
Franklin and Prunella



GENERAL ELECTIONS

The following is a list of nominations for officers and board members which will be voted on at the next General Meeting scheduled for October 12, 1994.

President - Steve Westby, WB7VHR
Vice President - John Martin, NØURR
Secretary - Luci Stansberry, NØOUD
Treasurer - Ron Deutsch, NKØP

Board Member - Jeff Ryan, NØWPA
Warren Hickey, WØYNE
Jill Kamienski, KBØMEZ
Mike Martin, NØOCZ

Remember nominations can still be made at the meeting before the elections start.

RMRL SWAPFEST

DAY/DATE/TIME: Sunday, 30 Oct 94 at 0800 to 1400

LOCATION: Jefferson County Fairgrounds
15200 W 6th Ave, Golden, CO

SPONSOR: Rocky Mountain Radio League (RMRL)

PHONE CONTACT: Joe Dickinson, WTØC, 303-771-9577

ADMISSION: \$3 at the door; Tables \$10

TALK-IN FREQ: 145.22(-) Mhz

MISC: ARRL forum, VE testing, food and drink

Dits and Bits

For Sale:

- ICOM IC-730 HF transceiver with mobil mic, extra case, all service manuals. Asking \$525.
- ICOM IC-2SAT 2m handheld with expanded receiver coverage, includes long-life battery pack, charger, speaker/mic, all manuals. Asking \$300.
- Hewlett-Packard HP110 laptop computer, with two external disk drives and printer, all manuals, great for packet. Asking \$220.
- Uniden Bearcat BC-760XLT scanner with incredible coverage, includes AC adapter, back-of-seat antenna, manual. Asking \$275.
- Peavey CS-800 stereo audio power amplifier, 400 watts/channel or 800 watts mono. Asking \$550.
- Peavey CS-400 stereo audio power amplifier, 200 watts/channel or 400 watts mono. Asking \$350.
- Loft model 603 stereo 3-way audio active frequency dividing ("crossover") network. Asking \$325.
- Several unfinished plywood operating desks, FREE FOR THE HAULING.
- Also several pieces of stereo or video gear, and a few other consumer electronic toys.

Please call Steve KØCI, 598-3554.

General Meeting September 14, 1994

Treasurers Report
Previous Balance 2245.09
Income 186.00
Expenses 450.94
New Balance 1980.94

The meeting was called to order at 19:00 by Steve WB7VHR. The treasurers report was submitted and the minutes were approved as printed in Ø Beat.

CCARC: Oak KØROL announced Cory Nelson KBØNMH will be the new co-delegate to the council.

Rosie filled in for Al Craig and circulated rosters for assignments to positions at our annual demonstration of ham radio at the North library

Education chairman Al Bailey announce the start on Nov/Tech classes for 8 weeks each Monday and Thursday. Code starts at 8:00 and No-Code Tech starts at 7:00 PM.

Broadband interference has been reported from 146.1 to 146.8. It seems louder in cool weather, and the frequency does shift around a bit. If you have any information on the source, please contact the interference chairman, Bill Petty NØNJX.

ØBeat editors remind us, now that the roster has been printed, it is time to submit articles for the newsletter.

RACES: Doug reports the meeting times will change. Stay tuned to the net for information and keep you callup rosters handy.

ARES/Public Service: We will be supporting the Walk-America will be on Sept. 24th. It was suggested we have an informal dinner for those who attended the skywarn training. If you are interested, Call Steve WB7VHR.

Swapfest chairman, Harv will have a meeting this Saturday to kick off a task force for next years swapfest. We are considering hosting the State ARRL convention this year and perhaps the regional convention in the near future, along with our swapfest.

Mike KØTER suggested we have separate categories for kits and "scratch" projects at home brew night in February. He also suggested the board be appointed or appoint a panel of judges to avoid the element of popularity in the contest.

The ad-hoc nominating committee for new officers and board members needs our full support in nominating members for board and office positions. Contact, Luci NØOD, Ron, NKØP, Oak KØROL, and John NØKIC if you have someone to nominate or wish to volunteer for a position.

Hammy was absent from the meeting AGAIN. I have heard the FBI has staked out Mikes QTH to determine whether Hammy has been kidnapped or not. Actually, Hammy was awarded to Harry Russell NØSFP for his quiet support of RACES and ARES and his efforts in storing and keeping up the club trailer.

Marshall Quiat and Tim Armagost presented the program with an update on ARRL activity. A brisk question and answer session followed.

Octobers program will be election of officers and board members.

Board Meeting September 19, 1994

The meeting was called to order at the at 1900 at the QTH of Steve WB7VHR. The following members attended. Al NØCMW Tom NØNTX, Ken NØNKP, Luci NØOD, Ron NKØP, Steve KØCI, Ora, NØQJX, Mike NØOCZ, Malcom KE9S and Jeff, NØWPA.

Luci reported the nominating committee has been busy. We now have Nominations for all officers, and several board members. See a related article in this issue.

The board voted to accept the loss of minor uncollectable debts over a year old.

XAMS is nearly upon us. Luci will chair refreshments, and Jeff will do entertainment. How does a amateur radio Jeopardy sound to you??

Ken suggested forming an award for "Ham of The Year". The winner of which would be submitted to the ARRL regional Ham of the Year awards committee.

The board considered Mikes suggestions about home brew night, but were concerned there might not be enough entries to split categories. The matter will be voted on at the next General Membership meeting.

Next months board meeting will be at Ora's QTH.

Submitted by Ken NØNKP Club Secretary

Editor's Corner

Due to some misunderstanding and confusion the Tri-Cities Breakfast scheduled for October 22, 1994 has been tentatively postponed until November. If there is anyone willing to put this breakfast together please contact any officer of the PPRAA.



PPRAA

October 1994



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1 7:00 AM Village Inn Breakfast 7:30 AM Breakfast Country Kitchen Widefield (W2TJO) 8:00 PM SCTN 146.97
2 8:00 AM COLORADO ARES NETS 3928.0 7:30 PM RACES HF NET 3990.5 8:00 PM SCTN 146.97	3 8:00 PM SCTN 146.97	4 7:00 PM ARES NET 146.97 8:00 PM SCTN 146.97 9:00 PM RACES NET 146.97	5 8:00 PM SCTN 146.97	6 8:00 PM SCTN 146.97 9:00 PM CMRG Info Net 147.345	7 8:00 PM SCTN 146.97	8 7:00 AM Village Inn Breakfast 7:30 AM Breakfast Country Kitchen Widefield (W2TJO) 8:00 PM SCTN 146.97
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30 8:00 AM COLORADO ARES NETS 3928.0 7:30 PM RACES HF NET 3990.5 8:00 PM SCTN 146.97 RMRL Swapfest	31 8:00 PM SCTN 146.97 HALLOWEEN	<div> September S M T W T F S 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 </div>			<div> November S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 </div>	

PPRAA

November 1994



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Here's a collection of notes from the internet news group "rec.radio.amateur.misc". I am not responsible for any of the responses (except one), I just thought I would collect them all up and share all of this wisdom with all those that read O-Beat. Although I'm sure none of you have done any of these things, you probably know someone else that has.

Enjoy. Dave Kurth N0UVR

The subject is: You know its time to retire from the hobby when....

... you're talking on the phone with a ham buddy, and you end the conversation and hang up the phone with a 'KD1HZ clear'.

— Michael P. Deignan, KD1HZ

... the phone rings and it is my son using the autopatch. In the middle of the conversation I say "This is N0WHB for ID"...

— Cyril Smith, N0WHB

...At least you weren't saying grace over a meal with your family! N4TMI clear, er, I mean, Amen...

— Michael Covington, N4TMI

...you end a face-to-face conversation with "dit dit".

— Paul Flaherty, N9FZX

... You spend 2 hours trying to crack a pile up on 20 meters to work a KJ2 station who is portable on Manhattan Island.

...Your wife points out that all of your children were born during sunspot minimums.

— Paul Valko, WB8ZJL

...When you're on the road while on vacation and you tune your FM stereo car radio to a good station and start looking for the S meter to see if it's a local station...

— Dave Kurth, N0UVR

...you're having a Saturday breakfast and you say "call please" so that you can interrupt a conversation to ask someone to pass the salt.

...Oh, no.... I forgot about our cat, named "CQ", who would think it was dinner time whenever I operated 20m SSB.

— Dave Bushong, KZ1O

...You answer your phone, "QRZ?"

— Mike Gauland, AA7JF

...And, after you find out who the calling party is, you say "your 59 in Virginia..."

— Ben E. Cline, AC4XO

Don't laugh, I know someone who did that with his telephone answering machine.

— Kok Chen, AA6TY

...I do get a laugh when my wife ends a conversation on the cell phone with "KI5EV". Wonder what the people on the other end think. My oldest son slips only when leaving messages on our answering machine. He caught himself at it the other day and the recording went something like: "88s mom, this is N5 unh <chortle-snicker>". Of course, _I'd_ Never do such a thing!

— Ed Humphries, N5RCK

...somebody asks you over the telephone "can you hear me okay"? and you in return give them a signal report.

...when you're boss starts babbling about something and you wish you had a VFO instead of this d*** crystal on his frequency so you could tune off.

— Christopher Ogren, NM1Z

...when you say things like "QSO" and "73" in casual, face-to-face conversations.

— Mike White, N4PDY

...You go shopping, get to the check-out, write a check, and sign it KE3HO.

— James E. Proctor, KE3HO

...you're talking on an EMS telemetry radio with a base hospital for medication orders and such, and sign out with your callsign...

No, I didn't do this, but N5JXS swears he did, and that he got a callsign back...

— Jay Maynard, EMT-P, K5ZC

...To get your ham buddies attention (who lives across the street), you yell 'CQ! CQ! CQ!' from your driveway.

...your wife starts talking to you while your on the phone, and you tell the person on the other end you're getting intermod.

...you've named your brand new German Shepherd puppy 'Radio Flyer' to combine two of your hobbies... (this is true, this is my dog's name...)

— John C. Wren, KD4DTS

...you're talking to somebody face-to-face in a busy place and you say, "Let's QSY my office," and they know exactly what you mean!

— Doug Renze, N0YVW

...u find urself typing in cw shorthand to fellow wrkers on internal email...(I hve found myself doing this too many times)...

...u tell people over the phone "I'm at my work QTH"...

— Fred M. Davis, VA3FD

...When the kids get names related to radio. I'm Robert F. Casey, that's RF, or radio frequency, or go further, radio frequency choke. :-)

-- Robert Casey, WA2ISE

...You are in your car, and see somebody you know walking down the street. Instead of going beep-beep and waving, you pound out CQ on your car horn and wave.

— Ed Bathgate, Awaiting license - Expects to be N3S** soon

...You're sitting outside somewhere, and you notice you've been hearing "O O O O O O," just a constant string of the letter "O," and for quite some time. Not consciously - it just popped into your head - and you start to listen to the surroundings...and there's a bird singing "OOOH OOOH OOOH," over and over and over...

— Scott Rosenfeld, NF3I

...when you start taking posts on rec.radio.amateur.misc seriously.....

— Roger Duffington, AB6WR

...Your 5-year-old son picks up your HT and says, "SQB monitoring!"

...You'd rather send someone a packet radio message on the 2-meter band when you know d*** well they also have a fully functional answering machine on their phone line! My wife loves that one!!

— Kevin Jessup, N9SQB

...You name your boat Sea Cue (not once, but twice).

— Robert Carpenter, W3OTC

...You punch out your realtor for showing you a house in a deep valley...

— Tom Bodoh, N0YGT

...I was giving a commercial license exam, and this ham came in to take his GMDSS Repair license exam. We need two forms of picture ID, so he starts flipping through his wallet, and I see what looks like a pictures of equipment. I ask, and he shows me a beautiful picture of his mint condition Collins KWM-2 station. He has no pictures of his family (wife OR kids), but he does have a picture of his HF station...

— Scott Rosenfeld, NF3I



OM/YL LUNCH BUNCH

Because of inclement weather, our luncheon was forced to be held at the Home Town Buffet on September 22, 1994. Howsoever, a most enjoyable time was had by all.

The Chowhounds will hold our next luncheon at the Country Harvest Buffet on Platte Avenue on October 20, 1994 at 12:00 noon. With a lot of luck, the weather should be most delightful. Come join us, one and all.

73's

Rosie Calaway, WA0MNL



Fire on Storm King Mountain

By John Radloff, NØMOR

Glenwood Springs, Colorado, is about 140 miles west of Denver and 100 miles from the Utah border. Storm King Mountain, three miles west of Glenwood Springs, and the valleys below, host many homes. On Sunday, July 3, radio amateurs on Interstate 70 reported seeing fires on the mountain to the US Forest Service. The service at that time had several crews on the mountain to prevent the small fires from spreading.

On July 6, the fires, encouraged by the tinder-dry wood and 50 mph winds, "blew up," trapping and killing 14 fire fighters, most of them veterans of such work.

The author, along with Amateur Radio Emergency Service (ARES) Emergency Coordinator Rick Doyal, KBØAHR, and Assistant Emergency Coordinator Kirvin Hodges, KFØSI, monitored local fire frequencies all the afternoon of that fateful day. It was evident that the fire was winning the battle; we could see the mushroom cloud of smoke from my house, 15 miles south-east of the mountain. I began to think that our ARES communication trailer would be needed.

At 9 PM a Denver television station correspondent reported that he and his family were evacuating their home — in Glenwood Springs! Then Rick called to say that our trailer was indeed needed, at a makeshift "incident command post." Kirvin and I pulled the unit to Canyon Creek Estates, all the while watching the fire and thick smoke along the edge of I-70.

Meeting KBØAHR there, we set up in the driveway of a home across from a temporary helicopter landing area. Thousands of small fires looked like orange lights all over the mountain. The fire was just behind the backyard of this

house, burning up the west face of Storm King Mountain.

We began operation at 11 PM, replacing three jeep-type vehicles that had been a temporary incident command post in the front yard. The linking of repeaters on 2 meters and 440 MHz in Grand Junction, some 70 miles to our southwest, gave us coverage from Glenwood Springs to Grand Junction. The following morning, July 7, the Colorado State Patrol emergency communication van took over and we moved to New Castle, three miles west of the fire, to an equipment staging area for the Salvation Army out of Denver. They were providing food for fire workers and we provided communication between their posts.

Radios reprogrammed

At the Glenwood Springs Middle School, where the State Patrol had set up, we helped coordinate cellular telephones and portable radios brought in for the emergency. The portable radios arrived but no one had the code to program them with the local and state frequencies. Fortunately, one of our members, Jack Gabow, NØZBS, was using a similar radio that didn't require a code. The frequencies were programmed into Jack's radio and it was then used to "clone" the others. This fix saved hours of waiting at a time when the firefighters needed those radios.

Later on July 7 we asked the president of the Western Colorado Amateur Radio Club, Larry Ball, WØIOL, for assistance. That came at midnight in the form of operators from their club, to help at the middle school command post. Things began to wind down on the 9th and the Forest Service relieved us.

On Thursday afternoon I had an opportunity to see the helicopters and "slurry bombers" in action, close up,

Lloyd Kimball, NØNHI, and I went "4-wheeling" to look for two mountaintop sites for portable repeaters for the Forest Service. We couldn't get up high enough, but we did get a look at the aerial activities. Several small lakes above the fire were all but sucked dry by the helicopters, so they had turned to dipping into the Colorado River next to I-70.

This fire attracted the attention of news media all over the world, as you know. We had an exchange student from Finland staying with us at the time; his mother called to find out if we were all okay.

More than 30 amateurs from communities in western Colorado worked in this project, expending some 285 hours in a fine display of cooperation between Colorado ARES Districts 2 and 3. Conditions at the staging area were hot, dry and dusty, with the temperature near 100 degrees F and helicopters stirring things up.

The fire was finally declared as contained on Monday, July 11, after six days of furious fire fighting. Jack Ward Thomas, a Forest Service official, personally shook our hands and thanked each of us for our time and effort, as did Salvation Army Program Director Mike T. Gelski. I would like to add my personal thanks to every amateur who responded and took part in this emergency operation, which showed me the tremendous need for an active and well-trained ARES group.

(The author is president of the Ski Country Amateur Radio Club.)

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